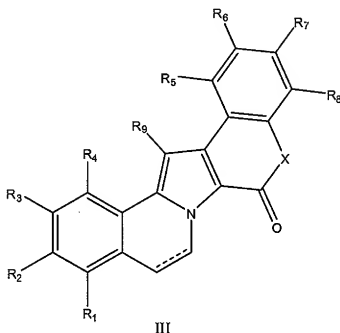


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of the general formula **III**:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, and R₈ and R₉ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO₂R', NHR', N(R')₂, N=R', NHCOR', N(COR')₂, NHSO₂R', NO₂, PO(R')₂, PO₂R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO₂H, CO₂R', OPO(R')₂, OPO₂R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', C(=O)R', N=C(R')₂, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkenyl, substituted or

unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein R₉ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO₂R', NHR', N(R')₂, N=R', NHCOR', N(COR')₂, NHSO₂R', NO₂, PO(R')₂, PO₂R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO₂H, CO₂R', OPO(R')₂, OPO₂R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', N=C(R')₂, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic, and halogen;

wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, NO₂, NH₂, SH, CN, ~~halogen~~, =O, halogen, C(=O)H, C(=O)CH₃, CO₂H, C(=O)R', substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₈ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₈ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkylsulfonyl;

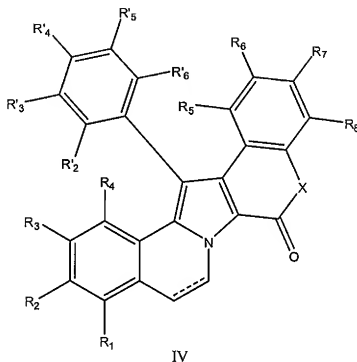
wherein the pairs of groups R₁ and R₂, R₂ and R₃, R₃ and R₄, R₃ and R₉, R₄ and R₉, R₉ and R₅, R₉ and R₆, or R₆ and R₇, R₇ and R₈ may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents ~~an single~~ a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~derivative, prodrug~~ or stereoisomer thereof, ~~thereof~~;

with the proviso that the compounds are not known lamellarins.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 characterized in that it has of the general formula IV:



wherein R_1 - R_8 are as defined above and R'_1 - R'_6 have the same definitions as for R_1 - R_8 above;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, derivative, prodrug or stereoisomer thereof.

wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_8 , R'_2 , R'_3 , R'_4 , R'_5 , and R'_6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO₂R', NHR', N(R')₂, N=R', NHCOR', N(COR')₂, NHSO₂R', NO₂, PO(R')₂, PO₂R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO₂H, CO₂R', OPO(R')₂,

OPO₂R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', N=C(R')₂, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein R₇ is independently selected from the group consisting of OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO₂R', NHR', N(R')₂, N=R', NHCOR', N(COR')₂, NHSO₂R', NO₂, PO(R')₂, PO₂R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO₂H, CO₂R', OPO(R')₂, OPO₂R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', N=C(R')₂, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

with the proviso that R₇ is not Me, Et, Pr, COMe, OH, OMe, OAc, OⁱPr or OBn when X is O;

wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, NO₂, NH₂, SH, CN, halogen, C(=O)H, C(=O)R', C(=O)CH₃, CO₂H, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₈ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₈ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkylsulfonyl;

wherein the pairs of groups R₁ and R₂, R₂ and R₃, R₃ and R₄, R₆ and R₇, or R₇ and R₈ may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 characterized in that wherein X is preferably O or NH.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 characterized in that wherein X is O.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 any of claims 1 to 4 characterized in that wherein the dotted line is a double bond.

6. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 any of claims 1 to 5 characterized in that wherein each of R₁-R₈ is independently selected from H, OR', and OC(=O)R'.

7. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 any of claims 1 to 6 characterized in that wherein R₃ is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, alkoxy, and OR', preferably methoxy, with the proviso that when R₃ is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 any of claims 1 to 6 characterized in that wherein R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₈ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H or alkoxy and OR', with the proviso that when R₄, R₅, R₆ or R₈ is OR', then R' is selected from a

substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl.

9. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 8 characterized in that wherein R₄, R₅ and R₈ are H.

10. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 any of claims 1 to 5 characterized in that wherein R₁, R₂ and R₇ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, alkoxy, OR', OC(=O)R', SO₂R', PO(R')₂, OSO₂R', OPO(R')₂, O-alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, NO₂, and NH₂, with the proviso that when R₁, R₂ or R₇ are OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl.

11. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 10 characterized in that wherein R₁, R₂ and R₇ are OC(=O)R' wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted aminoacid or aminoacids chain, preferably with a cationic group.

12. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 2 any of claims 2 to 11 characterized in that wherein R'₂, R'₃ and R'₆ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H and or alkoxy, preferably H, OR', wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl.

13. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 2 any of claims 2 to 12 characterized in that wherein R'₅ is selected from the group consisting of H and or alkoxy, preferably methoxy, OR', wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl.

14. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 2 ~~any of claims 2 to 13~~ characterized in that wherein R₄ is selected from the group consisting of H, OH, ~~alkoxy~~, OR', OC(=O)R', SO₂R', PO(R')₂, ~~Alkyl~~, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, NO₂, and NH₂, with the proviso that when R'₄ is OR', then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl.

15. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 14 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R'₄ is OC(=O)R' wherein R' is a substituted or unsubstituted aminoacid or aminoacids chain, preferably with a cationic group.

16. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 or 2 ~~any of the preceding claims~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of R₁-R₈ and R'₂-R'₆ is not H, OH, OCH₃, and SO₃Na, preferably at least two are not H, OH, OCH₃, SO₃Na.

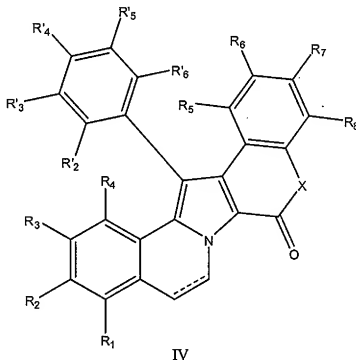
17. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in claim 1 or 2 ~~any of claims 1-16~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~derivative, prodrug~~ or stereoisomer thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method of treating a ~~tumour~~ tumor which comprises administering to a human an effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 1 or 2 ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~derivative, prodrug~~ or stereoisomer thereof.

20. (currently amended) ~~The use of compounds as defined in any of claims 1 to 16 or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, derivatives, prodrugs or stereoisomers thereof as topoisomerase I inhibitors. A method of inhibiting topoisomerase I comprising administering to a human an amount effective for inhibiting topoisomerase I of a compound as defined in claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.~~

21. (new) A compound of the general formula IV:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₈, R'₂, R'₃, R'₄, R'₅, and R'₆ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO₂R', NHR', N(R')₂, N=R', NHCOR', N(COR')₂, NHSO₂R', NO₂, PO(R')₂, PO₂R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO₂H, CO₂R', OPO(R')₂, OPO₂R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', N=C(R')₂, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, substituted

or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

wherein R₇ is independently selected from the group consisting of OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO₂R', NHR', N(R')₂, N=R', NHCOR', N(COR')₂, NHSO₂R', NO₂, PO(R')₂, PO₂R', C(=O)H, CO₂H, CO₂R', OPO(R')₂, OPO₂R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', N=C(R')₂, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic;

with the proviso that R₇ is not OH, OMe, OAc, OⁱPr or OBn when X is O;

wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, NO₂, NH₂, SH, CN, halogen, C(=O)H, C(=O)CH₃, CO₂H, C(=O)R', substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₈ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₈ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ aminoacid or aminoacids chain, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkylsulfonyl;

wherein the pairs of groups R₁ and R₂, R₂ and R₃, R₃ and R₄, R₆ and R₇, or R₇ and R₈ may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system;

and the dotted line represents a single or double bond;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or stereoisomer thereof.

22. (new) A compound according to claim 7 wherein R_3 is methoxy.

23. (new) A compound according to claim 13 wherein R'_5 is methoxy.

24. (new) A compound according to claim 16 wherein at least two of R_1 - R_8 and R'_2 - R'_6 are not H, OH, OCH_3 , or SO_3Na .

25. (new) A compound according to claim 11 wherein R' is an aminoacid or aminoacids chain substituted with a cationic group.

26. (new) A compound according to claim 15 wherein R' is an aminoacid or aminoacids chain substituted with a cationic group.

27. (new) A compound according to claim 2 or 21 wherein each of R_1 - R_6 and R_8 is independently selected from H, OR' , and $OC(=O)R'$ and wherein R_7 is selected from OR' and $OC(=O)R'$.

28. (new) A compound according to claim 2 or 21 wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR' , $OC(=O)R'$, SO_2R' , $PO(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, NO_2 , and NH_2 , with the proviso that when R_1 or R_2 are OR' , then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{18} alkyl; and

wherein R_7 is selected from the group consisting of OR' , $OC(=O)R'$, SO_2R' , $PO(R')_2$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, NO_2 , and NH_2 , with the proviso that when R_7 is OR' , then R' is selected from a substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{18} alkyl group.

29. (new) A compound according to claim 12 wherein R'_2 , R'_3 , and R'_6 are H.